

From: Roland Gauthier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

As a concerned american, consumer, and professional who uses computers in my daily work, I believe that it is crucial that the Department of Justice follow through with this long drawn out process of rendering justice for the americans who have been harmed by Microsoft's monopolistic behavior. Microsoft should not be allowed to get through this without more than a slap on the wrist and a pat on the back, as the current proposed settlement would do. Letting them give away their own technology and to our schools is not going to remedy the harm they have done to consumers and to technology innovators in the past 15 years. This would not only be a negligible monetary punishment (in comparison to what they've made off of us all), but would instead encourage their choke-hold on school children and consumers alike. Microsoft is thumbing its nose at the american justice system, and I would hope that this administration will not ignore the sins of big business, and instead protect the rights of american people and foster competition in business and technology.

A big problem with Microsoft is that they offer mediocre software. And everyone is force to use it because it is the de-facto standard. One appropriate remedy would be to put Microsoft on probation: to have their software checked by an appointed outside panel of government technology experts - examining potential security issues (for which Microsoft is notorious) and in terms of further monopolistic behavior (ie creating its own standards to control media) - BEFORE they can ship it. This probation should last 5 to 10 years, with a possibility for a "parole" for good behavior. Microsoft can improve their software and competitors can more easily flourish.

Microsoft would create (and replenish yearly, based upon its profits) a large endowment to fund all levels of education. Not by giving away software, or making any ads for their products, but supporting public schools throughout the country to encourage math, science and artistic programs, or school enhancement where they are needed most. That would make an impact, be fair to other tech companies, and give Microsoft a better name.

Thank you. I trust you will serve justice in this case.
Sincerely,
Roland Gauthier
Oakland, CA

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